REMARKS:

The previously presented claims 1 to 22 have been cancelled and have been replaced by new claims 23 to 37.

The examiner will appreciate that pultruded parts are conventionally formed from longitudinal fibers commonly called "rovings" and by transverse fibers which are commonly called "mats". These terms are used in the following remarks for convenience of understanding but the examiner is referred to the actual language of the claim for the actual definitions used in defining this invention.

Each of these claims now makes fully clear that there is a single layer only of mat and that all of the remaining fibers are rovings.

Each of these claims now makes fully clear that the single layer of mat has a weight less than 0.5 ounces per square foot.

This weight cannot be merely the weight of one component of a mat since the claims now make fully clear that all remaining fibers other than this weight of mat are roving fibers.

The Examiner will note that the limitation to the use of polyurethane resin has now been omitted from the independent claims since this was not considered by the Examiner to be a limitation which helped distinguish from the prior art.

Claim 28 is directed to the embodiment where the wall defines a peripheral wall fully surrounding a hollow interior such that the first surface faces outwardly and the second surface faces inwardly and the single layer of the mat is located at the second surface. This embodiment is shown in Figure 7 and is described in page 21 lines 11 to 14. This same disclosure occurs in Provisional Application

60/325,785 filed 14th June 2001 at page 16 lies 1 to 4 so that this claim is entitled to that date of filing.

Claim 33 is directed to the embodiment where the single layer of the mat is located between two layers of rovings so that the rovings are located at the first and second surfaces. This embodiment is shown in Figures 2 and 3 and is described in page 13 lines 9 to 17. This same disclosure occurs in Provisional Application 60/325,785 filed 14th June 2001 so that this claim is entitled to that date of filing.

The claims state that the transverse fibers are supplied as a pre-formed mat. This is disclosed in the application at page 16 line 17.

Claim 23 is a generic claim covering both embodiments.

The Examiner has cited under 35 USC 103 WO00/78529 and Kaiser 5,851,468. The Examiner admits the specific range of fibers is not disclosed in WO529 or in Kaiser.

The Examiner mentions on Page 3 of the Action examples 2 and 3 and suggests that the weight stated of 32 grams per square meter discloses the weight of the whole mat. However this is clearly the weight only of the fourth layer which is a polyester layer punched into the structure. This does not in any way take into account the weight of the main body of the mat which is the rovings of the first layer.

The Examiner's mention of this weight therefore does not provide any disclosure of the total weight of the fiber layer which overlaps with the range which is now clearly defined in the claims.

The Examiner has not referred to any additional art but instead the Examiner refers to ***In re Boesch***.

In making this reference, the Examiner is presumably raising the Section in regard to "obviousness of ranges" set forth in MPEP 2144.05. This Section refers to overlapping ranges. There is no overlap between the ranges set forth in the claim and the range set in the prior art of WO520 and/or Kaiser.

It is of course not proper for the Examiner to simply ignore the specific requirements of MPEP and to do so will lead to a successful Appeal against the rejection overturning such a rejection.

WO529 discloses longitudinal reinforcing layers containing unidirectional reinforcing fibers and mats which include some transverse fibers. In each case disclosed in WO529, the mat must necessarily be considerably heavier than the 0.5 ounces per square foot as claimed in Claim 1. Each component of the mat is at least of this weight and thus the whole mat formed by a combination of these components must be very much heavier than the value stated. There is no overlap between the weight of the layers in WO052 and the weight claimed in the present application.

Kaiser discloses only very roughly certain percentages of fibers in various layers of reinforcement. There is no disclosure of specific layers not the actual weight of fibers in those layers.

The Examiner has not pointed out specific disclosures of WO052 and/or Kaiser which disclose ranges of layer weight which overlap with the range claimed in the present application.

There is no evidence presented by the Examiner of any overlap in range. In the absence of evidence of overlap, In Re Boesch is not relevant to the determination of obviousness under 35 U.S.C.103.

The Examiner will appreciate that one feature of the claims now presented is that there is a single pre-formed mat between the surfaces.

WO 529 only discloses the use of two mats where one is applied on each surface. There is no disclosure of a single mat either applied between the surfaces or at the inner surface of a hollow body.

Further the claims specify that the surfaces are spaced by the thickness of the wall. If one therefore considers a rod of the type shown in Kaiser, there is no wall defined by spaced surfaces because there is only a single circumferential surface. In addition the provision of a circumferential layer surrounding the part means that is that there are in effect two layers of the mat in any thickness of the part. Thus if one were hypothetically to stretch the part across its width so that it becomes oval, a cross-section across the part will have two mats, one at each surface. The present invention specifies clearly in the claims as now presented that there is a single mat in the thickness. Kaiser does not therefore disclose a single mat.

It is submitted therefore that the new claims are properly distinguished from the prior art cited and should therefore be allowed

Respectfully submitted

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